

**REMARKS**

Claims 3, 4, 6-18, 20-26, and 31-33 remain pending in this application. Claims 3, 4, 6-18, 20-26, and 31-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 31-33 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

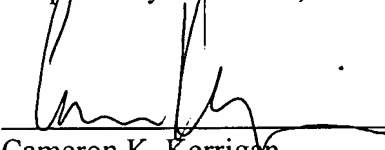
Independent claims 3, 17, and 31 have been amended to incorporate the features of the fixing device along the line suggested by the Examiner as recited in the Advisory Office Action. That is, claims 3, 17 and 31, now recite "an image forming method comprising the step of ... fixing the toner image on the transfer material by one of a fixing device having a fixing roller and a pressing roller, a fixing device having a fixing roller and pressure belt, a fixing device having a fixing belt and a pressure belt, and a fixing device having a fixing belt and a pressing roller." Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claim 31 has been amended in compliance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the rejections to claims 31-33 have been overcome.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of a notice of allowance. Should the Examiner have any suggestions that would place these claims in condition for allowance, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney of record.

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